



**Testimony before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
February 28, 2019**

**HB 7174, AN ACT CONCERNING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

Good Morning Chairman Scanlon and members of the Committee:

My name is Nathan Tinker, and I am Chief Executive of the Connecticut Pharmacists Association which represents more than 1,000 pharmacists, technicians, and students across all sectors of the pharmacy industry in Connecticut. I am submitting testimony in support of HB 7174, An Act Concerning Prescription Drugs.

I would particularly like to address Section 5, which concerns the relationship between PBMs (pharmacy benefit managers) and pharmacists.

Pharmacy reimbursement reform is a major priority for our membership—the financial impact of clawbacks and direct and indirect reimbursement (DIR) protocols alone has been enough to force independent pharmacies in the state to close, an impact felt not only by the owners and employees of these pharmacies, but by the thousands of patients they serve.

Connecticut's discussion of such reform is extremely timely. Just three weeks ago a years-long effort led by the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) to build support for a proposal to move pharmacy price concessions to point-of-sale reached a critical milestone. On Jan. 25, 2019, CPA joined nearly 3,500 pharmacists and 170 patients in voicing support for parts of a proposed Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services drug pricing rule that would eliminate the retroactive nature of pharmacy DIR.

CPA believes that all such schemes should be eliminated, period. Doing so would have a clear and immediate effect: less uncertainty for pharmacies, lower costs for patients, and a more stable healthcare environment for both. In the words of National Community Pharmacists Association CEO B. Douglas Hoey, "Now is the time to bring more transparency into our health care system and a reprieve to small business community pharmacies."

That said, the logistics of transitioning away from these practices will not be easy, but CPA and our members stands ready to work with regulators to provide information, insight, and evidence—and to help positively impact Connecticut's prescription drug challenges.

Nathan Tinker  
CEO  
Connecticut Pharmacists Association